

# MIS

MISCREATE. } *adj.* [*mis* and *created*.] Formed unnaturally or  
MISCREATED. } illegitimately; made as by a blunder of  
nature.

Then made he head against his enemies,  
And Ymmer flew or Logris miscreant. *Fa. Q. b. ii.*

Estfoons he took that miscreant fair,  
And that false other sprite, on whom he spread  
A seeming body of the subtle air. *Spenser.*

God forbid, my lord,  
That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your reading;  
With opening titles miscreant, whose right  
Suits not in native colours with the truth. *Shakespeare.*

MISDEED. *n. f.* [*mis* and *deed*.] Evil action.

O God,  
If thou wilt be aveng'd on my misdeeds,  
Yet execute thy wrath on me alone. *Shakespeare. Rich. III.*

Evils, which our own misdeeds have wrought,  
Chas'd from a throne, abandon'd, and exil'd  
For foul misdeeds, were punishments too mild. *Dryden.*

To MISDEEM. *v. a.* [*mis* and *deem*.] To judge ill of; to mis-  
take.

All unweeting an enchanter bad  
His sense abus'd, and made him to misdeem  
My loyalty, not such as it did seem. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

Besides, were we unchangeable in will,  
And of a wit that nothing could misdeem;  
Equal to God, whose wisdom shineth still  
And never errs, we might ourselves esteem. *Davies.*

To MISDEMEAN. *v. a.* [*mis* and *demean*.] To behave ill.

From frailty  
And want of wisdom, you, that best should teach us,  
Have misdeem'd yourself. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

MISDEMEANOR. *n. f.* [*mis* and *demean*.] Offence; ill beha-  
viour; something less than an atrocious crime.

The house of commons have only power to censure the  
members of their own house, in point of election or misde-  
meanors, in or towards that house. *Bacon.*

It is no real disgrace to the church merely to lose her pri-  
vileges, but to forfeit them by her fault or misdeemeanor. *South.*

These could never have touched the head, or stopped the  
source of these unhappy misdeemeanors, for which the punish-  
ment was sent. *Woodward's Nat. Hist. p. ii.*

MISDEVOTION. *n. f.* [*mis* and *devotion*.] Mistaken piety.

A place, where misdevotion frames  
A thousand prayers to fancies, whose very names  
The church knew not, heav'n knows not yet. *Donne.*

MISDIET. *n. f.* [*mis* and *diet*.] Improper food.

A drop through his flesh did flow,  
Which by misdiet daily grew. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

To MISDISTINGUISH. *v. a.* [*mis* and *distinguish*.] To make  
wrong distinctions.

If we imagine a difference where there is none, because  
we distinguish where we should not, it may not be denied  
that we misdistinguish. *Hooker, b. iii.*

To MISDO. *v. a.* [*mis* and *do*.] To do wrong; to commit a  
crime; to offend.

Afford me place to shew what recompence  
T'wards thee I intend for what I have misdone. *Milton.*

To MISDO. *v. n.* To commit faults.

Try the erring soul  
Not wilfully misdoing, but unaware  
Milled. *Paradise Regain'd, b. i.*

The worst is, to think ourselves safe so long as we keep  
our injuries from the knowledge of men, and out of our own  
view, without any awe of that all-seeing eye that observes all  
our misdoings. *L'Estrange.*

I have misdone, and I endure the smart,  
Loth to acknowledge, but more loth to part. *Dryden.*

MISDOER. *n. f.* [*mis* and *do*.] An offender; a criminal; a  
malefactor.

Were they not contained in duty with a fear of law, which  
inflicteth sharp punishments to misdoers, no man should enjoy  
any thing. *Spenser on Ireland.*

To MISDOUBT. *v. a.* [*mis* and *doubt*.] To suspect of deceit  
or danger.

If the only misdoubted me, I were in heaven; for quickly I  
would bring sufficient assurance. *Sidney, b. ii.*

I do not misdoubt my wife, but I would be loth to turn  
them both together; a man may be too confident. *Shakespeare.*

The bird that hath been limed in a bush,  
With trembling wings misdoubteth ev'ry bush;  
And I, the hapless male to one sweet bird,  
Have now the fatal object in my eye,  
Where my poor young was lim'd, was caught, and kill'd.  
*Shakespeare's Henry VI. p. iii.*

If you misdoubt me that I am not she,  
I know not how I shall assure you farther. *Shakespeare.*

To believe his wiles my truth can move,  
Is to misdoubt my reason or my love. *Dryden.*

MISDOUBT. *n. f.* [*mis* and *doubt*.]

1. Suspicion of crime or danger.

He cannot so precisely weed this land,

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As his misdoubts present occasion,  
His foes are so crooked with his friends,  
That, plucking to unfix an enemy,  
He doth unfasten so and shake a friend. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*

2. Irresolution; hesitation.

York, steel thy fearful thoughts,  
And change misdoubt to resolution. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

MISE. *n. f.* [*French*.] Issue. Law term.

To MISEMPLOY. *v. a.* [*mis* and *employ*.] To use to wrong  
purposes.

Their frugal fathers gains they misemploy,  
And turn to point and pearl, and ev'ry female toy. *Dryd.*

Some taking things upon trust, misemploy their power by  
lazily enslaving their minds to the dictates of others. *Lake.*

That vain and foolish hope, which is misemployed on tem-  
poral objects, produces many wrongs. *Addison's Spect.*

They grew dissolute and prophane; and by misemploying the  
advantages which God had thrown into their lap, provoked  
him to withdraw them. *Atterbury.*

MISEMPLOYMENT. *n. f.* [*mis* and *employment*.] Improper ap-  
plication.

An improvident expence, and misemployment of their time  
and faculties. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

MISER. *n. f.* [*miser*, Latin.]

1. A wretched person; one overwhelmed with calamity.

Do not disdain to carry with you the woful words of a  
miser now despairing; neither be afraid to appear before her,  
bearing the base title of the fender. *Sidney, b. ii.*

I wish that it may not prove some ominous foretoken of  
misfortune to have met with such a miser as I am. *Sidney.*

Fair son of Mars, that seek with warlike spoil  
And great achievements, great yourself to make,  
Vouchsafe to stay your fleet for humble miser's sake. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

2. A wretch; a mean fellow.

Decrepit miser! base ignoble wretch!  
I am descended of a gentler blood. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

3. A wretch covetous to extremity; one who in wealth makes  
himself miserable by the fear of poverty.

Though he be dearer to my soul than rest  
To weary pilgrims, or to misers gold,  
Rather than wrong Castilio I'd forget her. *Orway's Orphan.*

No silver fancies by dying misers giv'n,  
Here brib'd the rage of ill-requited heav'n;  
But such plain roofs as piety could raise,  
And only vocal with the Maker's praise. *Pope.*

MISERABLE. *adj.* [*miserable*, French; *miser*, Latin.]

1. Unhappy; calamitous; wretched.

O nation miserable,  
With an untitled tyrant, bloody scepter'd!

When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again? *Shakespeare.*

Most miserable is the desire that's glorious. *Shakespeare.*

What's more miserable than discontent? *Shakespeare.*

It is probable that there will be a future state, and then  
how miserable is the voluptuous unbeliever left in the lurch. *South's Sermons.*

What hopes delude thee, miserable man? *Dryden's Æn.*

2. Wretched; worthless.

Miserable comforters are ye all. *Job xvi. 2.*

3. Culpably parsimonious; stingy.

MISERABLENESS. *n. f.* [*from miserable*.] State of misery.

MISERABLY. *adv.* [*from miserable*.]

1. Unhappily; calamitously.

Of the five employed by him, two of them quarrell'd, one  
of which was slain, and the other hanged for it; the third  
drowned himself; the fourth, though rich, came to beg his  
bread; and the fifth was miserably stabbed to death. *South.*

2. Wretchedly; meanly.

As the love I bear you makes me thus invite you, so the  
same love makes me ashamed to bring you to a place, where  
you shall be so, not spoken by ceremony but by truth, miser-  
ably entertained. *Sidney, b. ii.*

3. Covetously.

MISERY. *n. f.* [*miseria*, Latin; *miserere*, French.]

1. Wretchedness; unhappiness.

My heart is drown'd with grief,  
My body round engirt with misery. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

Happiness, in its full extent, is the utmost pleasure we are  
capable of, and misery the utmost pain. *Lake.*

2. Calamity; misfortune; cause of misery.

When we our betters see bearing our woes,  
We scarcely think our miseries our foes. *Shakespeare.*

The gods from heav'n survey the fatal strife,  
And mourn the miseries of human life. *Dryden's Æn.*

3. [*From miser*.] Covetousness; avarice. Not in use.

He look'd upon things precious, as they were  
The common muck o' th' world: he covets less  
Than misery itself would give. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*

In a fabrick of forty thousand pounds charge, I with thirty  
pounds laid out before in an exact model; for a little misery  
may easily breed some absurdity of greater charge. *Hutton.*

MISFORTUNE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *fortune*.] Ill chance; ill luck; cala-  
mity.

To tell you what miserable misfortune fell to the young prince  
of Macedon his cousin, I should too much fill your ears with  
strange horrors. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Since we are thus far entered into the consideration of her  
misfortune, tell me, have there been any more such tempests  
whereto the hath thus wretchedly been wrecked. *Spenser.*

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MISESTEEM. *n. f.* [*mis* and *esteem*.] Disregard; slight.

To MISFACTION. *v. a.* [*mis* and *fashion*.] To form wrong.

A thing in reason impossible, thorough their misfashioned  
preconceit, appeared unto them no less certain, than if nature  
had written it in the very foreheads of all the creatures of  
God. *Hakewill on Providence.*

To MISFORM. *v. a.* [*mis* and *form*.] To put in an ill form.

His monstrous scalp down to his teeth it tore,  
And that misformed shape misshap'd more. *Spenser.*

MISFORTUNE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *fortune*.] Calamity; ill luck;  
want of good fortune.

Fortune thus 'gan say, misery and misfortune is all one,  
And of misfortune, fortune hath only the gift. *Sidney.*

What world's delight, or joy of living speech,  
Can heart so plung'd in sea of sorrows deep,  
And heaped with so huge misfortunes reach? *Fa. Q.*

Consider why the change was wrought,  
You'll find it his misfortune, not his fault. *Addison.*

To MISGIVE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *give*.] To fill with doubt;  
to deprive of confidence. It is used always with the reciprocal  
pronoun.

As Henry's late prefiging prophecy  
Did glad my heart with hope of this young Richmond;  
So doth my heart misgive me in these conflicts. *Shakespeare.*

What may befall him, to his harm or ours.  
This is strange! Who hath got the right Anne?  
My heart misgives me. *Shakespeare. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

Yet oft his heart divine of something ill,  
Misgave him. *Milton.*

If a confidence thus qualified and informed, be not the  
measure by which a man may take a true estimate of his ab-  
solute, the sinner is left in the plunge of infinite doubts,  
suspensions, and misgivings, both as to the measures of his  
present duty, and the final issues of his future reward. *South.*

His heart misgave him, that these were so many meeting-  
houses; but, upon communicating his suspicions, I soon made  
him easy. *Addison's Freeholder, N<sup>o</sup>. 47.*

To MISGOVERN. *v. a.* [*mis* and *govern*.] To govern ill;  
to administer unfitly.

Solyman charged him bitterly, that he had misgoverned the  
state, and inverted his treasures to his own private use. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*

MISGOVERNED. *adj.* [*from misgovern*.] Rude; uncivilised.

Rude, misgovern'd hands, from window tops,  
Threw dust and rubbish on king Richard's head. *Shakespeare.*

MISGOVERNANCE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *governance*.] Irregularity.

Thy muse too long slumbereth in sorrowing,  
Lulled asleep through love's misgovernance. *Spenser's Poet.*

MISGOVERNMENT. *n. f.* [*mis* and *government*.]

1. Ill administration of public affairs.

Men lay the blame of those evils whereof they know not  
the ground, upon publick misgovernment. *Raleigh's Essays.*

2. Ill management.

Men are miserable, if their education hath been so undi-  
ciplined, as to leave them unfurnished of skill to spend their  
time; but most miserable, if such misgovernment and unskil-  
fulness make them fall into vicious company. *Taylor.*

3. Irregularity; inordinate behaviour.

There is not chastity enough in language  
Without offence to utter them: thus, pretty lady,  
I am sorry for thy much misgovernment. *Shakespeare.*

MISGUIDANCE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *guidance*.] False direction.

The Nicene council fixed the equinox the twenty-first of  
March for the finding out of Easter; which has caused the  
misguidance from the sun which we lie under in respect of  
Easter, and the moveable feasts. *Holder on Time.*

Whoever deceives a man, makes him ruin himself; and  
by causing an error in the great guide of his actions, his judg-  
ment, he causes an error in his choice, the misguidance of  
which must naturally engage him to his destruction. *South.*

To MISGUIDE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *guide*.] To direct ill; to lead  
the wrong way.

Hunting after arguments to make good one side of a  
question, and wholly to neglect those which favour the other,  
is wilfully to misguide the understanding; and is so far from  
giving truth its due value, that it wholly debases it. *Locke.*

Misguided prince! no longer urge thy fate,  
Nor tempt the hero to unequal war.

Of all the causes which conspire to blind  
Man's erring judgment, and misguide the mind,  
What the weak head with strongest bias rules,  
Is pride, the never-failing vice of fools. *Pope.*

MISHAPE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *hap*.] Ill chance; ill luck; cala-  
mity.

To tell you what miserable misshape fell to the young prince  
of Macedon his cousin, I should too much fill your ears with  
strange horrors. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Since we are thus far entered into the consideration of her  
misshape, tell me, have there been any more such tempests  
whereto the hath thus wretchedly been wrecked. *Spenser.*

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Sir knight, take to you wonted strength,  
And master these misshape with patient might. *Fa. Q. uen.*

Rome's readiest champions, repose you here,  
Secure from worldly chances and misshape. *Shakespeare.*

It cannot be

But that success attends him: if misshape,  
Ere this he had return'd, with fury driv'n  
By his avengers; since no place like this  
Can fit his punishment, or your revenge. *Milton's P. Lost.*

If the worst of all misshape hath fallen,  
Speak; for he could not die unlike himself. *Denham.*

MISHMASH. *n. f.* [*Ans*.] A low word. A mingle or hotch-  
potch.

To MISINFER. *v. a.* [*mis* and *infer*.] To infer wrong.

Nestorius teaching rightly, that God and man are distinct  
natures, did thereupon misinfer, that in Christ those natures  
can by no conjunction make one person. *Hooker, b. v.*

To MISINFORM. *v. a.* [*mis* and *inform*.] To deceive by false  
accounts.

Some belonged to a man of great dignity, and not as that  
wicked Simon had misinformed. *2 Mac. iii. 11.*

By no means trust to your servants, who mislead you, or  
misinform you; the reproach will lie upon yourself. *Bacon.*

Bid her well beware,  
Left by some fair-appearing good surpriz'd,  
She dictate false; and misinform the will  
To do what God expressly hath forbid. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

MISINFORMATION. *n. f.* [*from misinform*.] False intelligence;  
false accounts.

Let not such be discouraged as deserve well, by misinfor-  
mation of others, perhaps out of envy or treachery. *Bacon.*

The vengeance of God, and the indignation of men, will  
join forces against an insulting benefactor, when backed with  
greatness, and set on by misinformation. *South's Sermons.*

To MISINTERPRET. *v. a.* [*mis* and *interpret*.] To explain to  
a wrong sense.

The gentle reader rests happy to hear the worthiest works  
misinterpreted, the clearest actions obscured, and the inno-  
centest life traduced. *Benj. Johnson.*

After all the care I have taken, there may be several pas-  
sages misquoted and misinterpreted. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

To MISJOIN. *v. a.* [*mis* and *join*.] To join unfitly or improp-  
erly.

In reason's absence mimick fancy wakes  
To imitate her; but misjoining shapes,  
Wild work produces oft, and most in dreams;  
Ill-matching words, and deeds, long past, or late. *Milton.*

Luther, more mistaking what he read,  
Misjoins the sacred body with the bread. *Dryden.*

To MISJUDGE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *judge*.] To form false opinions;  
to judge ill.

Where we misjudge the matter, a miscarriage draws pity  
after it; but when we are transported by pride, our ruin lies  
at our own door. *L'Estrange.*

You misjudge;  
You see through love, and that deludes your sight;  
As, what is straight, seems crooked through the water. *Dryden's All for Love.*

By allowing himself in what is innocent, he breeds offence  
to his weak and misjudging neighbour. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

Infatuate!

Too long misjudging have I thought thee wise,  
But sure relentless folly steals thy breast. *Pope.*

To MISLAY. *v. a.* [*mis* and *lay*.] To lay in a wrong place.

Mean time my worthy wife, our arms mislay'd,  
And from beneath my head my sword convey'd. *Dryden.*

The fault is generally mislaid upon nature; and there is  
often a complaint of want of parts, when the fault lies in  
want of a due improvement. *Locke.*

If the butler be the tell-tale, mislay a spoon, so as he may  
never find it. *Swift's Rules to Servants.*

MISLAYED. *n. f.* [*from mislay*.] One that puts in the wrong  
place.

The mislayer of a mere-stone is to blame; but the unjust  
judge is the capital remover of land-marks, when he diminisheth  
amids of lands. *Bacon's Essays.*

To MISLEAD. *v. a.* [*mis* and *lead*.] To guide a wrong way;  
to betray to mischief or mistake.

Take, oh take those lips away,  
That so sweetly were forsworn;  
And those eyes, the break of day,  
Lights that do mislead the morn. *Shakespeare.*

Those we love,  
That are misled upon your cousin's part. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*

Poor misled men: your states are yet worthy pity.  
If you would hear, and change your savage minds,  
Leave to be mad. *Benj. Johnson's Cataline.*

Trust not to your servants who mislead or misinform you. *Bacon's Advice to Pillars.*